

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of regulating weight in an overweight non-human animal comprising

in combination, during a period of time:

(a) administering on a daily basis one or more servings of dairy products to the animal in an amount sufficient to induce weight loss, reduce weight gain, and/or increase the metabolic consumption of adipose tissue in the non-human animal, the one or ~~ore~~ more servings comprising a therapeutically effective amount of calcium above suboptimal levels, wherein the dairy product comprises at least about 0.4% calcium, and

(b) maintaining the overweight animal on a restricted caloric diet below ad lib,

wherein consuming the dairy products during the period of time produces a benefit attributable to the dairy products selected from the group consisting of inducing weight loss, reducing weight gain, and/or increasing the metabolic consumption of adipose tissue in the overweight animal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a mammalian pet.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a dog or cat.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the animal is a mouse.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the animal is a mammalian farm animal.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the method reduces the risk of osteoarthritis, ligament injuries, perineal dermatitis, diabetes mellitus, cardiomyopathy, and/or urologic syndrome.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the dairy products are administered in an amount sufficient to treat, reduce or attenuate obesity.

Claim 8 (previously presented): An animal food package comprising a container,

a calcium-fortified or dairy-containing non-human animal food within the container, and

a dietary plan for administering the food to an animal that is overweight, wherein the dietary plan comprises, in combination during a period of time: (a) administering on a daily basis one or more servings of the food, the one or more servings comprising a therapeutically effective amount of calcium above suboptimal levels, wherein the animal feed comprises at least about 0.4% calcium, and (b) restricting caloric intake below ad lib, and

a description indicating that consuming the animal food according to the dietary plan during the period of time produces benefits attributed to calcium in inducing weight loss, reducing weight gain, and/or increasing the metabolic consumption of adipose tissue, in the overweight animal.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The food package of claim 8, wherein the animal food is mammalian pet food.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The food package of claim 8, wherein the animal food is mammalian farm animal feed.

Claim 11 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the period of time is at least about six weeks.

Claim 12 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the dairy produce comprises at least about 1.2% calcium.

Claim 13 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the dairy produce comprises at least about 2.4% calcium.

Claim 14 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the caloric diet is restricted by 70%.

Claim 15 (new): The food package of claim 8, wherein the period of time is at least about six weeks.

Claim 16 (new): The food package of claim 8, wherein the animal feed comprises at least about 1.2% calcium.

Claim 17 (new): The food package of claim 8, wherein the animal feed comprises at least about 2.4% calcium.

Claim 18 (new): The food package of claim 8, wherein the caloric intake is restricted by 70%.